

AMENDMENT TO THE TITLE

Please change the title to:

Method and system for using virtual URLs for load balancing.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows by rewriting independent claims 1, 9, 15, 18, 21, and 22 with the following clean versions in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121; marked-up versions of the claims are included in the following section.

Clean version of amended claims:

1. (Amended) A method for managing connection requests to a pool of servers identified by a given URL, comprising the steps of:

in response to a connection request from a given client

machine that initiates a session, associating a session

identifier with a given server in the pool;

using the session identifier in a redirection response;

returning the redirection response to the given client to redirect the connection request to the given server; and

during the session, receiving at the given server any additional connection requests from the given client machine.

2. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the step of using the session identifier includes generating a virtual URL.

3. The method as described in claim 2 wherein the virtual URL comprises a URL in the connection request modified to include the session identifier.

4. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the session identifier is incorporated in data returned from the given server to the client machine.

5. The method as described in claim 1 further including the step of:

in response to a connection request from the given client machine that terminates the session, inactivating the session identifier.

6. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the given client machine include a browser.

7. The method as described in claim 1 wherein each of the servers in the pool supports a similar set of objects.

8. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the session identifier is associated with a given server as a function of a load balancing protocol.

9. (Amended) A method for managing connection requests to a pool of servers, comprising the steps of:

A2 responsive to a connection request from a client machine to initiate a user session, associating a user session originating from a client machine with a given server in the pool in accordance with a load balancing protocol;

returning a redirection response to the client machine for the connection request; and

during the user session, receiving at the given server any additional connection requests originating from the client machine.

10. The method as described in claim 9 wherein the associating step comprises:

generating a virtual URL by modifying a given URL to include a session identifier;

using the virtual URL to redirect the connection request to the given server.

11. The method as described in claim 10 further including the step of:

inactivating the virtual URL upon completion of the user session.

12. The method as described in claim 10 wherein all data returned from given server to the client machine includes the session identifier.

13. The method as described in claim 9 wherein each of the servers in the pool supports a similar set of given objects.

14. The method as described in claim 9 wherein each client machine include a Web browser.

15. (Amended) ~~A computer program product in a~~
computer-readable medium for managing connection requests to a
pool of servers, comprising the steps of:

means, responsive to a connection request from a client
machine to initiate a user session, for associating a user
session originating from a client machine with a given server
in the pool in accordance with a load balancing protocol;

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X means for returning a redirection response to the client
machine for the connection request; and

means operative during the user session for receiving at
the given server any additional connection requests
originating from the client machine.

16. The computer program product as described in claim 15
wherein the associating means comprises:

means for generating a virtual URL by modifying a given
URL to include a session identifier;

means for redirecting a given connection request to the
given server using the virtual URL.

17. The computer program product as described in claim 16
further including:

means for inactivating the virtual URL upon completion of
the user session.

18. (Amended) A server for managing a pool of servers at a Web site identified by a given URL, comprising:

a processor;

an operating system;

a load balancing routine; and

a redirector routine for managing HTTP connection requests to the Web site, comprising:

means responsive to a connection request from a client machine to initiate a user session for associating a user session originating from a client machine with a given server in the pool in accordance with the load balancing routine;

means for returning a redirection response to the client machine for the connection request; and

means operative during the user session for redirecting to the given server any additional connection requests originating from the client machine.

19. The server as described in claim 18 wherein the means for associating comprises:

means for generating a virtual URL by modifying a given URL to include a session identifier;

means for redirecting a given connection request to the given server using the virtual URL.

20. The server as described in claim 19 wherein the redirector further includes:

means for inactivating the virtual URL upon completion of the user session.

21. (Amended) A method of managing a pool of servers at a Web site identified by a given URL, comprising the steps of:

responsive to a connection request from a client machine to initiate a user session, associating a user session originating from a client machine with a server in the pool of servers in order to distribute user sessions across the pool of servers in accordance with a load balancing protocol; and

AS returning a redirection response to a given client machine for the connection request; and

during a given user session initiated from the given client machine, serving content to the given client machine only from its associated server.

22. (Amended) A method of managing a pool of servers at a Web site identified by a given URL, comprising the steps of:

in response to a connection request containing the given URL from a given client machine that initiates a session, associating a session identifier with a given server in the pool of servers;

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generating a virtual URL by modifying the given URL from the connection request to include the session identifier;

generating a redirection response comprising the virtual URL; and

sending the redirection response to the given client machine to redirect the connection request to the given server.
